THURGOOD MARSHALL SECONDARY SCHOOL

# EAGLE EYE

FALL ISSUE | 990 ALLEN AVE., PASADENA, CA 91104 | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

# *PUSD Financial Crisis Threatens Marshall*

*Pasadena's Board of Education looks to eliminate $30 million from budget to prevent LACOE takeover*

By: Errol Dassie & Andrew Sweet

In the 2024-2025 school year, the PUSD Board of Education formed the Superintendent Budget Advisory Committee. Created after the end of the Eaton Fire and lapse of COVID-19 relief funds, it aimed to "take bold steps to implement performance-based budgeting, prioritizing strategies that are both cost-effective and impactful for student learning."

SBAC is made up of principals, teachers, parents, community members, and students, all with a goal to close the 30 million dollar school budget deficit.

Through the many meetings of the SBAC, the Pasadena Board of Education has laid out fiscal stabilization plans. But what do these cuts look like?

These proposed cuts affect nearly every part of Marshall.

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*Marshall sophomore Makarah Robinson stands next to a statue commemorating the life of her great-grandfather, Mack Robinson, and his younger brother, Jackie Robinson.*

Photo by Taleesa Ofumbi

# Robinson Legacy Endures at Marshall

*Legendary PUSD graduates Mack and Jackie Robinson's bloodline is carried on by Makarah Robinson*

By: Taleesa Ofumbi

Thurgood Marshall Secondary School sophomore Makarah Robinson seems like any other typical teenager. She likes to read and play video games. She donates dog food to the local shelter and clothes to charities. She dreams of one day becoming a marine biologist.

"I like to read mystery novels," she admits. "Like, when they find that unexpected person and there's plot twists."

But, most typical teenagers don't get invited to meet former president Joe Biden. Most don't get interviewed by Major League Baseball broadcasters on national television. And most don't get recognized at a statue unveiling at the Rose Bowl.

That's because most teenagers do not share the bloodline of Jackie Robinson, the first athlete to break the color barrier in professional sports.

"I would say my life was different because we get invited to a lot of events for the Dodgers, and my grandma does work with the Special Olympics, and she gets to pick the theme for a Rose Parade float," she said.

"But, we don't really like the attention. I grew up taking pictures with all these people. I don't want the attention. I feel that people wouldn't really understand."

Makarah Robinson is the great-granddaughter of Jackie Robinson's older brother, Mack Robinson. He was a star athlete at John Muir High School and later went on to win a silver medal in the 200 meters at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, falling only 0.4 seconds behind fellow American, Jesse Owens.

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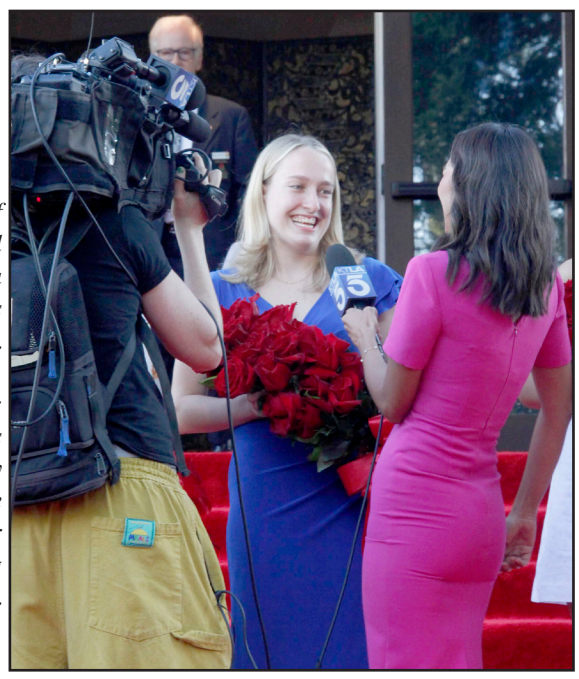
Photos by: Ailani Cota



*Top: Class of 2024 Marshall alumna Olivia Hargrove speaks with a reporter.*

*Bottom: Hargrove plans to study aerospace technology after transferring from PCC.*

# *Tournament of Roses Selects Marshall Alumna*

*Former Thurgood Marshall student from class of 2024, Olivia Hargrove is chosen to be on Royal Court*

By: Leo Walters

Every year, the Tournament of Roses appoints seven young women from Pasadena and surrounding cities to serve on the Rose Court.

Held on the south lawn of the Tournament House, the Rose Court announcement is a beloved occasion in Pasadena culture, and once again, Marshall has seen one of its own Eagles crowned as a Rose Court Princess.

On Sept. 29, Olivia Hargrove, a proud Marshall Alumni was chosen to be a member of the Royal Court for the 2026 New Year's Day Rose Parade.

Nearly 200 guests attended in support of the event. The final decision was between 28 finalists, supporters gathering in large groups of representatives from all of the nominated schools.

This year, the chosen court consists of girls from the following schools: The California Institute of Technology (CalTech), Arcadia High School, Alhambra High School, John Muir High School, Temple City High School, and Hargrove who currently attends Pasadena City College.

After interviewing over 400 potential candidates, Rose Tournament officials decided the court based on several criteria. They were looking for girls with impressive academic records and extracurricular activity, community involvement, public speaking ability, and natural leadership skills.

Hargrove has excelled in these qualities while at Marshall, and continues to do so now.

"We are thrilled. She represents so many wonderful things about Marshall. We couldn't be prouder," said principal Lori Touloumian, reacting to the news of Hargrove's crowning.

An abbreviated list of Olivia's achievements include her participation in Marshall's marching band,

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# Robinson

**from Page 1**

As Makarah Robinson posed to take pictures with her grandmother, Kathy Robinson Young in front of the bronze statues of Mack and Jackie Robinson at Pasadena City Hall, two visitors from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, stood admiring the portrait heads of the two athletes.

Robinson Young explained to the visiting couple that Mack Robinson was her father.

"My dad was a part of the 18 Black athletes in the 1936 Olympics. Daddy won second place in the 200 meters. My dad's name is Mack Robinson, right there," she said, while pointing to the name on the bronze plate.

The memorial of the two brothers was built in 1997. It symbolizes the importance of the Robinson family to the city of Pasadena as much as it does to the rest of the nation.

"[My dad's] younger brother was inspired, so Uncle Jackie had to go around all the [other siblings]. He was the baby. Uncle Edgar was very strong in bicycling and rollerskating. Willa Mae was very good in women's basketball. And Uncle Jackie went on to become very good at sports," Robinson Young said.

The visiting couple listened in awe of the first-hand history lesson.

"My grandma is like, very high energy, very extroverted. She does speeches when she meets someone new. She loves to talk to people all about Jackie Robinson," Makarah Robinson said.

"My grandma knows I don't like to talk about it, but I'm forced to talk about it. She wants me to realize how important it is and how lucky I am. I also want people to understand about Jackie Robinson, but I just don't like to be the one who talks and talks and talks like her," she said.

Makarah's great-great uncle is Jackie Robinson, the first person to ever break the color barrier in Major League Baseball, and the only athlete to letter in four sports in UCLA's history.

Jackie Robinson had a tumultuous upbringing. Being the youngest child of sharecroppers and formerly enslaved grandparents. His father abandoned his mother shortly after he was born, leaving Mallie Robinson to be the sole provider of their household.

After this, Mallie Robinson decided to move her children across the country to the small town of Pasadena, California.

Upon moving to Pasadena, Jackie Robinson attended Cleveland Elementary School and Washington Elementary School. Then he attended Washington Junior High, which is now known as Octavia E. Butler.

For high school, he attended John Muir Technical High School — this is where Robinson would soon demonstrate his athletic capabilities. Robinson was inspired after seeing his brothers Frank and Mack's great success as athletes.

Watching older brother Mack earn a silver medal in the 200-meter dash, only slightly behind Jesse Owens, inspired Jackie to follow in his brother's footsteps.

Jackie Robinson earned letters in track and field, football, baseball, and basketball, while also playing on the tennis team at Muir.

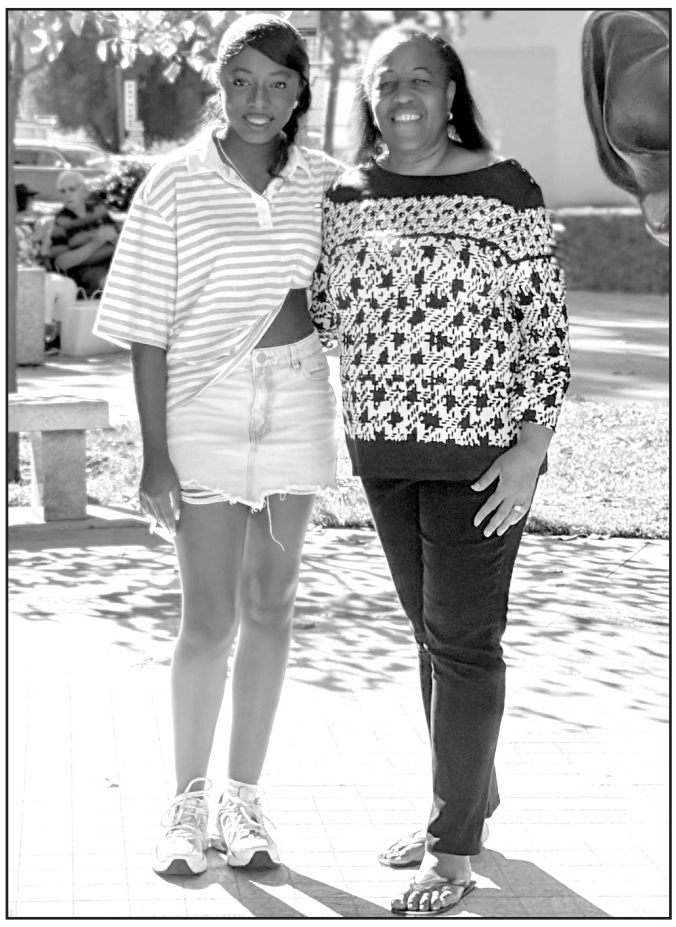
After high school, Jackie Robinson went to Pasadena Junior College, now known as Pasadena City College. Robinson continued to play and compete in track and field, football, baseball, and basketball.

During his time at Pasadena Junior College, Jackie Robinson began his fight against anti-Blackness and racism, particularly when he was arrested on January 25, 1938, for vocally disputing with an officer over the wrongful conviction of his African American friend. However, he only received a two-year suspension due to his star athleticism and the belief that he would never do something like this again.

Robinson transferred in 1939 to UCLA on an athletic scholarship for football. At this time, the enrollment for African Americans at UCLA was less than 1 percent and there was not a single Black faculty member. Robinson was one of only four black students who were on the football team, which was still the most integrated college football team at the time.

He was, and still is, the only student in all of UCLA history to letter in four sports — track and field, football, baseball, and basketball.

During WWII, Robinson was drafted to a segregated army unit and rose to second lieutenant within a year where he joined the 761st tank battalion known as the "Black Panthers." He was honorably discharged after he contested and won a case for discrimination when he refused to sit in the back of an unsegregated bus.



***Left:*** *Kathy Robinson Young and her granddaugther, Makarah, descend from the late Olympian, Mack Robinson*
***Below:*** *Makarah Robinson was invited to meet former president Joe Biden at an event in Pasadena.*

In 1947, Jackie Robinson made history when he was called up to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first African American player in Major League Baseball.

Over the course of a decade playing with the Dodgers, Robinson won six National League pennants, Rookie of the Year, NL MVP and the 1955 World Series, their first championship in team history. He was also the first Black player to be inducted into the MLB Hall of Fame.

Robinson's contributions for breaking the color barrier can be seen as paving the way for the World Series champion Dodgers' current global roster, featuring players from Cuba, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Japan, and South Korea.

"I feel like not a lot of people who aren't black really know much about our history here. They don't really undersand the history of my Uncle Jackie and what he did to make people of color play baseball. I feel like it is my responsibility to teach people. People need to know how hard he fought, because it's important. If he didn't fight, then we wouldn't have all of these people playing baseball like Anthony Banda, Mookie Betts, Ohtani, and Yamamoto," Makarah Robinson said.

That history began with older brother Mack Robinson, the male patriarch of his family, who eventually purchased six homes next to his alma mater, John Muir High School for each of his children to live in. However, after only two generations, very few of the Robinsons continue to reside in Pasadena.

The Robinson legacy in Pasadena also symbolizes the culture of Black excellence in this community, which like the Robinson family members, seems to be moving away from the city.

"I think Pasadena should maintain its Black culture because then we'd just be like every other city, and not every city has this history," Makarah Robinson said.

"The Jackie Robinson history, the Mack Robinson history, the color barrier being broken, and my grandpa winning his silver medal just behind Jesse Owens, all of it would be gone."

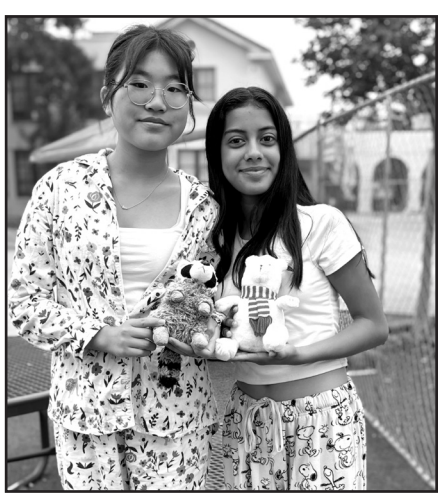
*Mack Robinson captured the silver medal in the 200m dash at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He is in the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame*

Photo courtesy of the University of Oregon

*Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play professional sports. Both he and his older brother, Mack, attended Muir High School in Pasadena.*

Photo by Getty Images

## Fall Spirit Week



Gia Shin & Samantha Sanchez
-7th grade

**Pajama & Stuffed Animal Day**

Savannah Bradley & Maylin Rodriguez
-10th grade

**Hawaiian Day**

Jacob Diamante -9th grade

**Jersey Day**

Andy Solis - 9th grade

**Halloween Costume Day**

*Top: Olivia Hargrove, pictured in center, proudly poses for the cameras after the announcement of the 107th royal court in the history of the Rose Court.*

*Below: Former Marshall student and Rose Court member Reese Saporito (c/o 2020) congratulates fellow alumni Hargrove (c/o 2024). Saporito is currently a student at USC Law School.*

Photos by Ailani Cota

## Rose Court

**from Page 1**

the Hollywood Bowl's Christmas Parade, and the Rose Parade with the Pasadena All-Star band.

She was an exceptional student in all subjects and now intends to study Mechanical Engineering with a focus in Aerospace technology, and she holds the title of the first Pasadena City College court member in over a decade.

When asked what inspired her to try out for the Court, Hargrove responded, "I wanted to have fun, and I really did have fun with this process. Marching the Rose Parade about three years back, it's really bringing back all those memories of the joy I had lining up the morning of. Now, I get this chance, it's crazy."

Hargrove's mother, Linda Hargrove, attests to her daughter's leadership qualities and experience throughout the nomination process.

"She is quite communicative. She's able to talk to all age groups, and always has a positive attitude. Olivia says it's all been really fun, the girls are all very nice," Linda Hargrove said.

When asked what words of motivation she has for future generations, Hargrove said it's all a matter of putting yourself out there.

"Even if you don't think you're going to make it far, at least try. You need to believe in yourself first to get where you want to be," she said.

Hargrove joins Trinity Dela Cruz, Jeannine Briggs, Zoë Denoncourt, Mia Thorsen, and Reese Rosental Saporito as current or former Marshall students nominated to the Royal Court since 2020.

## *Thurgood Marshall Eagles Students Win the Stanley Cup*

*Nonprofit Good Sports donates hundreds of water bottles to students*

By: Paolo Calchi Novati & Tyler Tran

In August, during middle school and high school lunch, students received one free Stanley Cup water bottle per student. Many students received different colored Stanley Cups.

"I am thankful for the Stanley Cups. I can save my money now that I can use my new and free Stanley Cup to put my favorite drinks in, and drink from it whereever I go," senior Henry Romero Lopez said.

Good Sports is a nonprofit organization that provides sports equipment, clothing, and other essentials to children in high-need communities.

The organization has donated sports equipment and donated the Stanley Cups to Thurgood Marshall.

According to PE teacher Luis Meza, he reached out to Good Sports in the past summer to see if the organization could donate some sports equipment for the school's sports programs. The organization was willing to donate equipment along with some spare Stanley Cups as well.

"Good Sports donated soccer balls, basketballs, football equipment, and some clothing like uniforms for sports teams, and they offered to donate the Stanley Cups. I asked if they could donate for every student in the school. It's all free," Meza said.

ASB distributed the Stanley Cups to students who got to chooose their color of choice.

ASB would check off their names in a list. Everyone who wanted a bottle was able to obtain one.

"My friends who were there at the event when they started distributing the Stanley Cups said that it was fun seeing the students receive their Stanley Cups. We're grateful for the donation of the Stanley Cups," senior cheerfleader and ASB member Joana Noyola said.

Stanley Cups are a big thermos, with handles and two ways to drink it, either from the cup or the straw that is already prepared with the Stanley Cup. The Stanley Cup can hold any drink, and can be used to drink hot and cold drinks.

"I think that it's a good thing to have these Stanley cups because they are much bigger than my old thermos. I would bring it to school only if it's hot. If it's not hot, I just leave it at home so I use it to fill my favorite drink in and relax," senior Julian Rivas.

## *Students Issued New Chromebooks to Mixed Reviews*

*New Chromebooks offer longer battery life, but wifi connectivity inconsistent*

By: Tyler Tran

During the beginning of the 2025-26 school year, students in their English classes received new Chromebooks from the district due to the old models getting worn out.

"I think that the new Chromebooks are more of an upgrade rather than a downgrade, but that's just my personal opinion. The new Chromebooks last longer than the old models," senior Louis Kwak said.

PUSD asked students to turn in their old model Chromebooks to their school's library before the end of the 2024-25 school year.

"These Chromebooks are smaller and have plastic body armor to protect them. This was to prevent students from destroying them. The new model is also a lot better than the old models. It's faster and more durable," Chromebook support coordinator Jose Cabrera said.

Students have mixed opinions about the new Chromebook model. Some students have positive opinions about the new Chromebooks, thinking they're durable and faster. Some students have negative opinions about it, disliking the smaller size and screen.

"I personally think that the new model Chromebooks are faster, but the screen is a bit too small for me," senior Marisol Rivas Gomez said.

Cabrera has provided some positive feedback on the new Chromebooks' plastic armor.

"I've been seeing fewer and fewer students coming into my office, and showing me their broken Chromebooks. I am positive to say that the plastic body armor for the Chromebooks are doing well so far," Cabrera said.

There were some complaints about the new Chromebooks from students. Students complain about the Chromebooks' censor glitching out, battery lasting only the school day, taking longer to connect to the Wifi, and the plastic body armor being unnecessary.

"I have my fair moments using the new model school Chromebook. Whenever I tried to log into Canvas, it takes a little longer for the Wifi to connect, and the screen is too small for my eyes. The plastic body armor also feels weird,"senior Kaylee Snyder said.

## *PUSD Think Tank Enters Third Year*

*PUSD Student advocacy groups, Think Tank and Student Assembly, continue valuable work alongside school*

By: Natalie Kreakopyan & Andrew Sweet

The Student Think Tank is a PUSD student-led initiative that focuses on creating a space for students to represent their school communities.

Voicing their thoughts and opinions at school board meetings, students work hand in hand with the district and address PUSD policies.

Director Sehba Sarwar explained that as a PUSD parent, she felt that her daughter and her classmates had little contact with other campuses.

Taking up the idea of fostering student-board connections with then PUSD superintendent Brian McDonald, the initiative was approved by CAO Helen Chan Hill in 2019. The centre has entered its sixth year and gone through several cohorts.

"The Think Tank has created a system that ensures that all six high schools have the opportunity to be represented," Sarwar commented, including CIS Academy and Rose City.

Besides negotiating policy, the Think Tank looks to embrace diversity and empower future leaders. Underrepresented students speak their minds at a district level, connecting with other students of diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

The Think Tank hosts a yearly conference with PUSD clubs and programs engaging in prompted debates and discussions. Board members attended last year.

Third-year Think Tank member and prospective student assembly representative Katherine Bleeker said she joined the Think Tank after a friend recommended it to her.

"I made so many friends from around the district, and I love helping my community in any way I can," Bleeker said.

Along with the Think Tank, Sarwar created the Student Assembly, a branch of the Think Tank in which youth across the high school grade levels represent their peers at the monthly district board meetings. Elected junior students circulate between schools to sit at the district office table.

Both student organizations work hand in hand to discuss models for problem-solving techniques.

"When we do our internship and our online sessions, students work together – there's no hierarchy and everyone participates in whatever area interests them," Sarwar said.

# *Dress Code Committee Formed for Student Feedback*

*In order to ensure equal and fair enforcement of dress code, student group meets with administration to find common ground*

By: Paolo Calchi Novati

Incredulity filled the Marshall student body on Aug. 29 as the school attempted to enforce its irregularly enforced dress code.

That would prove to be the second and last day of enforcement for the dress code, as widespread disapproval among students prompted the administration to action.

That Sunday, Principal Lori Touloumian announced in her weekly email blast that assistant principal Marcela Valadez would be forming a dress code committee with students to review and update Marshall's dress code.

This committee is currently working on a set of modifications to the PUSD dress code regulations and Marshall's dress code policy.

Touloumian said that the administration noticed students' complaints about the enforcement of the dress code and took them very seriously, hence, the committee.

"We felt the need to really gauge our student body and get as much input as possible so that we would have them as partners in our process moving forward," said Touloumian about the school's decision to create the committee, which is currently made up of 16 students and Valadez, who takes on a sort of club advisor role during their meetings.

"I think it's [the dress code committee] a great idea. I think it's good to involve students' opinions on stuff like the dress code because it affects the students more than it really affects the staff," Brenna Henley, a senior who is in the committee, said.

On Aug. 29, a disproportionate amount of female students were stopped for dress code violations and forced to change into school-supplied shirts that complied with the rules.

One example is junior Katherine Bleeker, who was stopped by a school security guard and an administrator on her way to class.

"I showed them the different dress codes, and they took away my phone, and they said I had to change and I refused because I wasn't violating it. I had already missed 20 minutes of class at that point," Bleeker said.

The dress code was also enforced on Aug. 28, but on that day, the school simply called parents about dress code violations and tried to send their student home, because it did not yet have shirts for students to change into.

Even though Touloumian initially stated that the committee's new dress code would be available by September 30, the process is taking the committee longer than expected. Until a new policy is decided, the school will only enforce dangerous or "severe" violations of the dress code, according to Valadez.

For the first part of their plan, the committee is planning to send out a survey to Marshall students, staff, and parents by late November to get opinions on a revised dress code that they have created. Once they put that one in place at Marshall, Valadez explained that the committee intends to propose a series of regulations to PUSD dress code policy at one of the district's board meetings.

"I want them to demonstrate that they have been thoughtful and done research, and that they have taken into consideration the viewpoints of all members of our educational community before we move forward. And so that takes time," Valadez said about the committee presenting its suggestions to the board.

Furthermore, according to Valadez, the committee wants staff to be better trained on how to enforce the dress code.

"There were some staff members, when they were enforcing the dress code, were saying some things that were not consistent with the policy itself," she said.

Photos courtesy of Felita Kealing

***Top:*** *Former girls basketball coach Paul Bodenshot, De'Verion Mackay ('00), Cherie Nelson ('83), and Justin Watson ('93) were inducted into the Marshall Hall of Fame.*
***Below:*** *Marshall alumna Cherie Nelson was the Pac-10 Player of the Year during her time at USC.*

# Alumni Athletes Inducted into Hall of Fame

*After reaching centennial anniversary, Marshall continues to honor its past with creation of Athletics Hall of Fame and induction of three school legends*

By: David Chavarria

On Saturday, Nov. 8, Thurgood Marshall Secondary School recognized a legacy of excellence and held their first-ever Hall of Fame induction honoring notable alumni and current student athletes.

The theme for the induction was "A Legacy of Excellence, Teamwork, and School Spirit," and celebrated 100 years of Marshall athletics.

The ceremony featured the newly renovated outdoor basketball courts, finished by senior Theodore Ortega for his Eagle Scout project, who was assisted by Scout Troop 21, student and community volunteers, and PUSD maintenance.

The 2024 Girls Tennis team was recognized for winning the CIF championship, along with the 1983 girls basketball team for their CIF championship win.

Three alumni were commemorated not only for their athletic achievements, but their academic accomplishments and community outreach initiatives.

Cherie Nelson, class of 1983, was a member of the girls' basketball team and a four-time league MVP as well as a high school All-American and CIF 1-A player of the year as a senior.

Nelson went on to play for USC where she was later declared Pac-10 Player of the Year at USC in 1988 and the No. 2 all-time player with 2,474 points. In addition, Nelson started the Cherie Nelson Basketball Academy, inspiring the future of the sport.

Justin Watson, class of 1993, was a member of the football team, where he rushed 350 yards and 5 touchdowns in his final high school game. He was also the first Marshall athlete to earn a Division 1 scholarship, which he used to go to San Diego State University.

After SDSU, he played for the St. Louis Rams and became a Super Bowl champion.

De'Verion Mackay, class of 2000, was on the boys' basketball team. He earned the honor of being a three-time All CIF honoree and was a key player for the team when they won four back-to-back Alpha League Championships after taking the team to a 120-28 record, as well as the first player to score over 1,000 points in a single season. Mackay studied at Cal Baptist and Azusa Pacific and founded Because We Care Hoopz, a basketball mentorship program where he prepares the youth to do well not only in sports but in life.

# BUDGET

**from Page 1**

Sports teams face blows to funding of up to 50 percent, risking the need for private donors.

Along with this, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs such as ACI, Puente, electives and LEARNS confront large reductions, with some fearing total termination.

In the preliminary SBAC rankings for potential cuts based on priority, "reimagining ACI" would help save $502,150 annually. Marshall's ACI students spoke at a Nov.13 board meeting about keeping funds and programs in tact.

The board has laid out the scenarios of Marshall staffing cuts made by SBAC — one assistant principal, bookkeepers/clerical/food services/custodial staff/librarians, and other important staff dedicated to Marshall students all face potential layoffs from the upcoming vote tomorrow, Nov. 20.

The board will also be voting on cuts in district contracts and central office reductions to reach the desired budget reduction number requested by LACOE.

The public reception of these cuts remains very poor, with many community members speaking out against the cuts at the education board meetings. But these cuts have a deadline – what happens if these reductions aren't made in time?

That's where LACOE comes in. The SBAC and Board of Education have consulted with officials from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), who cover seventy-nine school districts across the county. LACOE presented to the Board on October 9.

Octavio Castelo, director of business advisory services, conducted a presentation on the proposed budget cut timeline. LACOE spoke on Pasadena's submission of their budget reduction plans by November 2025. Officials recommended a $30-35 million reduction in the 2026-27 school year with enforcement by next July.

"If you draw a loan, if it's an immediate cash insolvency issue," Castelo said. "The board has no authority."

LACOE voiced the possibility of state-appointed trustees taking over the district.

$62 million in relief funds brought temporary relief to Pasadena Unified after the 2020 pandemic. District finances were exacerbated after the January Altadena Fires, delaying vital projects focused on economic viability.

Concerns over closures and consolidation – the merging of schools – have sprung up in board conversations.

Board president Jennifer Hall Lee quickly cast off any discussion of school closures or mergers, pointing instead at the lease of unused properties like Roosevelt Elementary.

The financial crisis has also stemmed from declining PUSD enrollment. Student population has decreased from over 16,000 in the 2019-2020 school year to under 13,000 now. Trends in disenrollment continued when 90 fire-displaced students pulled out of circulation. It should be noted that dropping student enrollment is a local and national problem due to lower birth rates in recent times.

So how does PUSD survive? Touloumian believes that assest management will be key.

"We [PUSD] literally have vacant buildings that are gold mine properties,"Touloumian said. "We have been renting out our properties to community organizations charging under market value. That's tons of money right there," she said.

SBAC continues to work against the clock, but time is running out.

While the outcome of this current crisis is up in the air, one thing is certain — PUSD is making cuts across the board — not just at Marshall, but at all the PUSD schools and the district office.

Pasadena Unified has organized town halls to speak with concerned employees and labor partners. The Board of Education will reconvene tomorrow to finalize a list of which services to reduce.

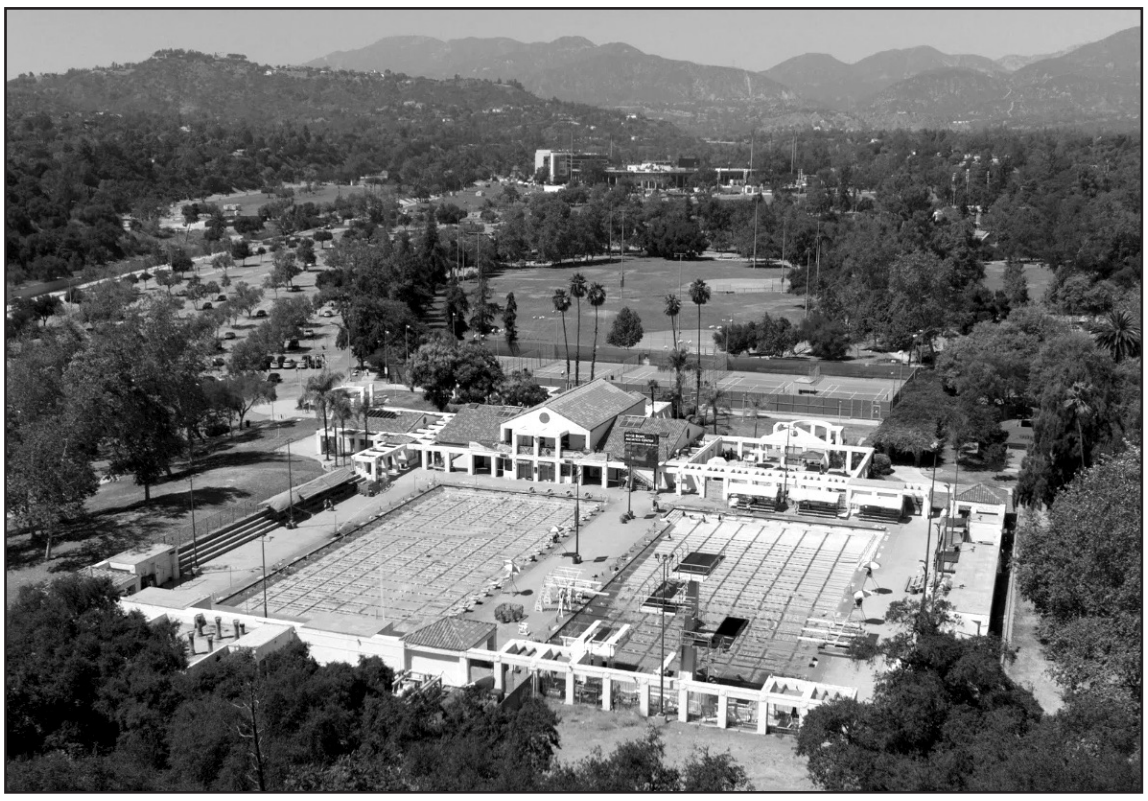


Photo courtesy of USA Diving

Olympics officials have changed venues for diving, moving another Olympic sport to Pasadena.

# Pasadena's Rose Bowl Aquatic Center Will Host 2028 LA Olympic Games

*Summer Olympics officials move site of diving events from DTLA to Pasadena's Rose Bowl Aquatic Center to accompany soccer events*

By: Leo Walters

The Olympic Games are heading to Pasadena. Officials from LA28 have announced that the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center (RBAC) will host the Olympics diving events for the 2028 Summer Games, marking a historic moment for both the city and the venue.

Originally, organizers had planned to build a brand-new Olympic pool complex at Exposition Park in Los Angeles. However, that plan has been replaced with a move to Pasadena's already established Rose Bowl Aquatics Center. The RBAC facility is known for its state-of-the-art amenities and long-standing community role.

The RBAC, located next to the iconic Rose Bowl Stadium, features two Olympic-sized pools, a therapy pool, and a spacious pool deck.

Logo courtesy of LA28

However, the existing dive tower which is a key element for the competition is currently closed and will undergo reconstruction to meet Olympic standards. As of November, the construction has not begun.

"The City of Pasadena looks forward to working with LA28 and the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center to bring the best of Olympic diving to Pasadena," said Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo in a statement.

"We value the unique opportunity this presents for bringing energy, meaningful economic opportunities, and pride to our entire city."

Hosting Olympic diving will be a major milestone for Pasadena.

The Rose Bowl Stadium, home to the UCLA Bruins football team, will also host Olympic soccer matches during the Games.

The stadium is already known for its rich sports history, having hosted four Super Bowls and multiple World Cup finals.

This will be the third time the Rose Bowl has served as an Olympic venue, making it only the second venue in history to be used three times for the Games.

Each year, the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center serves thousands of children, families, and athletes through swim lessons, competitive training, therapy, and wellness programs.

The upcoming Olympic events will not only highlight Pasadena on the global stage but also celebrate the RBAC's ongoing dedication to aquatic excellence. More details about Olympic schedules, ticketing, and community programs will be released as the 2028 Games draw closer.

# *Try These Local Coffee and Pastry Spots to Support Local Businesses*

*Pasadena offers plenty of charming options to sit with a book or a friend and enjoy lattes and baked goods*

By: Miranda Mejia

The city of Pasadena is the perfect café scene that delivers both atmosphere and yummy drinks that are ideal for students looking for a place to study, hang out, or just try something new.

One of the most notable Chinese coffee shops is Mandarin Coffee Stand. It is a sleek, minimalist café on South Lake Avenue in the Burlignton Arcade shopping area known for its housemade sweet cream Vienna and toasty lattes and authentic matcha lattes that many would wait long for.

Just a few blocks up is Tierra Mia Coffee. They serve blends of Latin flavors with local charm like their horchata latte, a personal favorite. This recently opened cafe is becoming everyone's new favorite spot, steering us all away from Starbucks (which is only three minutes away from Tierra Mia).

¨Why go to Starbucks if there is Tierra Mia?," students are asking.

Lavender & Honey Espresso Bar is the closest cafe to Marshall, making it a must-visit. If you're after coziness and comfort, Lavender & Honey Espresso Bar is for you. It serves its signature Honeybee Latte in an aesthetic space that is perfect for photos. The seasonal drinks are always the best and never fail to satisfy.

For something sweet, Badash Bakes recently opened in May 2025 on Colorado Blvd. This bakery is owned by a young African American female who made a strong presence on social media. It offers the warmest and yummiest cookies and pastries that feel homemade in the best way. Everything here is phenomenal, such as their cinnamon rolls, brownies, and even their drinks.

Their double matcha is incredible! Don't underestimate their top-notch drinks, as they're just as good as their famous baked goods.

Lastly, a Marshall favorite is Urth Caffé, located in the heart of Old Pasadena. It has become one of the city's most recognizable spots due to its outdoor seating, great coffee, organic ingredients, and California charm that come together.

Sitting on the corner of Colorado Blvd. with their signature Spanish Latte that is sweet and bold, never fails to be good. But Urth Caffé isn't just about coffee. The menu includes healthy sandwiches, fresh salads, and breakfast plates, making it just as much a brunch destination as a café. It's a favorite among locals for weekend catch-ups and a go-to for students needing a mid-study pick-me-up.

For students, these spots are more than just somewhere to grab caffeine. They are a space to recharge and connect. And by choosing local cafés instead of big chains (like Starbucks), we are also supporting small businesses and the community that makes Pasadena so unique. No matter what you are craving, coffee, matcha, or a sweet bite — there's a perfect local spot waiting for you.

*Left: Expect to wait in lines for Mandarin Coffee Stand's sweet cream Vienna and toasty lattes in the Burlington Arcade.*

Photo by Miranda Mejia

Photo courtesy of Variety

*Chappell Roan broke audience records at the Brookside Golf Course.*

# *Chappell Roan Turns Up Brookside*

*Mind-blowing audience of 40,000 fans show up at the Brookside Golf Course to watch former Altadena resident perform*

By: Leo Walters

On Oct. 10, the Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena hosted the two-day Los Angeles leg of trending singer Chappell Roan's "Visions of Damsels and Other Dangerous Things" tour.

Multiple Thurgood Marshall students attended both the Friday and Saturday shows which started with opening acts performing early in the afternoon.

To go with the aesthetic of the stage design, which mimicked the mythical city of Atlantis, Roan asked her fans to dress in "mermaid" inspired outfits. The crowd containing tens of thousands of people resembled a kaleidoscope of oceanic colors and mermaid accessories.

This was no casual day for the Rose Bowl area. With thousands of visitors, major street blockades, and a makeshift parking lot on the golf course, the residential neighborhood was surely a challenge to maneuver through.

Roan emerged from an elevator in the stage around 9pm after many hours of opening acts including a DJ set from drag queen Trixie Mattel, and a performance by up-and-coming artist Hemlocke Springs.

"The last show I played in L.A. was at the Wiltern, which I think is a 2,500-cap, so it's really crazy that we're here and there's like 40,000 people here tonight," said Roan, during the first night of her two day concert.

Roan, a Missouri native, moved to California and originally settled in Altadena before the release of her breakthrough album "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess."

During the performance, she took a moment to acknowledge the Eaton Canyon fire that devastated the community earlier this year as well as the ICE raids that were conducted this summer.

"I loved L.A. more than anything when I saw how the community came together. I'm so lucky to be able to live here and to play here," Roan said.

Roan announced that all of the proceeds from the shows would go to the new "Midwest Princess Project" to support trans youth and other LGBTQ+ communities. The Trans Wellness Center and the Trans-Latina Coalition are the Los Angeles based organizations partnering with Roan's project.

# CLASS OF 2026 POM

Story by Emily Jimenez & Leo W

The annual Powderpuff football game returned to Thurgood Marshall Secondary on Wednesday, Oct. 29, bringing roaring crowds, school spirit, and a fierce rivalry between the junior and senior girls. After last year's stunning upset, when the Class of 2026 juniors claimed victory over the seniors, this year's juniors hoped to repeat history. But the Class of 2025 seniors had other plans. In an action-packed matchup, the seniors came out strong and never looked back, earning a dominant 36–0 win. Players Danica Dinh and Ava Desiongco led the Senior team to victory with exceptional performances.

"Powderpuff is always one of the most hyped events of the year, with the adrenaline, the touchdowns, and the junior-senior rivalry. Getting to play running back has honestly been a highlight of high school. Winning twice was also unexpected and super special, but what I loved most was how it brought so many of us closer in a way no other event really does," Dinh said.

The stands were packed with students, teachers, parents, and friends, creating one of the most energetic atmospheres of the year. The

Group Photo by Dylan Obsenares

# inates in 36-0 win

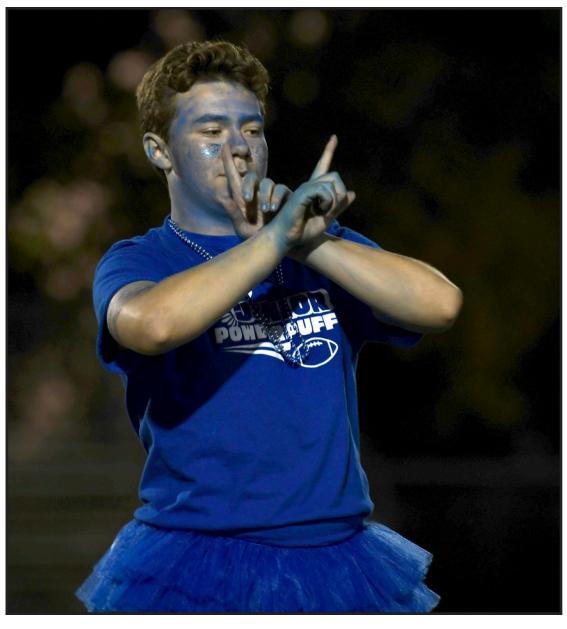
alters ❋ Photos by Olivia Moran

Powderpuff game, often called Marshall's biggest event, took place during a busy week that also included Spirit Week, Halloween celebrations, Homecoming preparations, a Food Faire, multiple high stakes sports matches, and a pep rally. Thanks to careful planning from ASB student leaders, everything went off with no complications.

Throughout the game, the junior and senior boys dance teams kept the crowd excited with entertaining cheers and daring halftime performances. Both sides showed incredible energy and school pride, with the seniors displaying good sportsmanship after securing their well-earned victory.

"Powderpuff was a really fun experience and I'm super grateful to have been able to participate and grow closer with my class. And although the score wasn't exactly what we wanted, we still have next year!" said Junior Livsey Teems after the game.

With another exciting Powderpuff in the books, the Class of 2025 walks away with bragging rights, and the juniors are already looking ahead to next year's rematch.



# *Marshall Arts Honors Hollywood in Annual Fall Festival*

*State officials reopen schools, students return to class fully masked after more than year at home.l kaklfdja;lfsjd;k*

By: Paolo Calchi Novati
& Ishbel Tyler

Marshall Secondary kicked off the fall season with live music and dance performances, as well as stunning visual artwork.

The school held its annual Fall Festival on Oct. 9 in the north quad.

It featured performances from the school's band, orchestra, choir, and dance departments, with each group performing a variety of festive musical pieces. Students from the visual art and design department also displayed their artwork.

Most of the proceeds from concessions sold at the event will go to the Marshall Arts Department's New York City trip, from March 26-28, 2026.

During the trip, Marshall dance, choir, orchestra, and band students will have the opportunity to visit NYC and even perform at Riverside Church in Manhattan. The drama students will attend a local workshop.

"Our theme, loosely, is music from the movies, so most selections come from a movie that hopefully people will have heard of," choir director and AP music theory teacher Michelle Espinosa said.

In addition, a group made up of all choirs, accompanied by the chamber orchestra, sang the school's alma mater, thus honoring Marshall's recent name change to Thurgood Marshall Secondary School.

The event also featured a special performance starring principal Lori Touloumian performing "Dance the Night Away" with the advanced dance class led by director Darcy Naganuma.

Touloumian had already made numerous appearances as a singer for James Pappalardo's Marshall Jazz Band.

Orchestra director Heather King expressed confidence in her students.

"There's a lot of talent in every single orchestra, honestly," King said.

For students, the festival is an opportunity to showcase their hard work and the skills they have developed in class.

"I'm performing with every group this year, so I'm going to be running around a lot, but I also get to have fun just doing what I love, playing music," junior Santiago Smith-Ruiz said.

During the festival, he played saxophone with the jazz and marching bands, sang with the Chamber Choir, and played percussion for an orchestra piece.

*Top: Senior drum major Sareen Boschetti conducts the marching band under the twilight stars. Left: Senior dance choreographer Leilani Ogletree dances to "Hollaback Girl" by Gwen Stafani*

Photos by
Ailani Cota

Photo by Luciano Gomez

*Drama department's "Puffs" shines spotlights on the other wiz kids.*

# *Wizardry, Sorcery, and a Whole Lot of Comedy in Drama's 'Puffs'*

*Not to be confused with a different fantasy story about boy wizards at a prep school, 'Puffs' casts a spell*

By: Cynthia Santourian

From Nov. 13-15, the Thurgood Marshall drama department brought the magical world of Puffs to life on stage. The result was a heartfelt, hilarious, and amusing performance that left the audience entertained.

Performed this past weekend, the Puffs told the story of Wayne, an ordinary boy who discovers wizardry and finds himself as a "Puff," a group known more for kindness and snacks than glory.

Over seven chaotic school years, Wayne and his friends learn what it means to find friendship and purpose, even when the spotlight isn't on them.

Before the opening night, play director and teacher Alison Garfinkel explained that the show is ultimately about "finding meaning in life and humanity for everyone, no matter how small their role is to play."

That theme resonated clearly throughout the performance, with every actor bringing personality and authenticity to their role.

"The play really speaks to a lot of people. Feeling like a background character in your own story is a really common theme," junior actor Errol Dassie said.

"Getting to express those feelings in a comedic way is really what makes this play so special."

Making his theatrical debut is senior Leo Walters.

"We have all had so much fun working on the production. This is my first school play, and everybody has been very welcoming to me. I had a blast with it, and I think it was a hilarious show," he said.

Attending the show, it was clear how much work went into every detail of the show. From the colorful costumes to the props and the tech effects to timing the jokes and fast-paced scene changes. The audience laughed throughout the entire performance.

Whether a fan of magical stories or just someone looking for a night of comedy and creativity, Puffs delivered an experience full of laughter, chaos, and surprises.

# *From 'Hamilton' to 'K-Pop Demon Hunters,' Lip Sync Battle Produces Hits*

*First major performance of the year features sing-along favorites from veteran lip syncers to musical debutantes, Lip Sync Battle*

By: Isabela Koebel

On Sept. 12, Marshall's drama and dance departments helped to coordinate Lip Sync Battle, an annual tradition where students battle for the best lip sync'd choreography.

The winners of the lip sync competition were the performers of various songs from "Hamilton."

Ava Desiongco, Sareen Boschetti, Lauren Petersen, Dylan Obsenares, Nathaniel Solanga, Sean Monteleone, Nate Nicoletti, and August Brandow took top honors.

"K-POP Demon Hunters" also had its moment in a battle between Huntrix and the Saja Boys.

Students lip sync'd multiple songs from the record-breaking movie, successfully repairing the Honmoon and protecting the world from Gwi-ma.

The songs performed included popular hits like "So Fresh, So Clean" by OutKast (performed by Dominic Ponce and Mia Ortega) but also familiar theme songs like "Sophia the First" performed by Olivia Coli, Emma Brown, Waverly Knight, Lily Schmidt, and Errol Dassie.

This year, there were many performances from students who haven't performed in lip sync battle before.

"I hope everyone had a really good time at lip sync battle. I'm so glad that we're able to start off our drama year so well. This is our first show that we're doing this year and I'm really excited. I think it's going to be amazing!" said Olivia Coli, a first time lip sync performer.

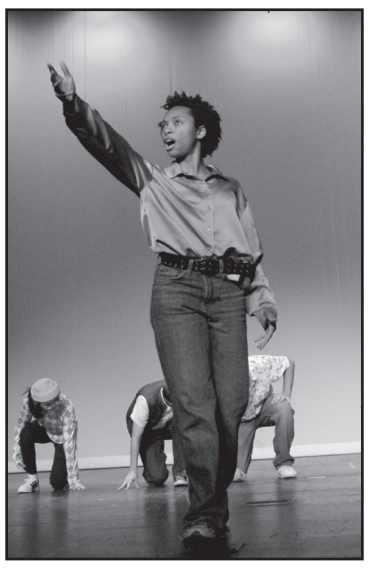
There were also returning performers in lip sync battle. Vatche Harboyan has performed in lip sync battle "many times" and felt "incredible" about performing.

Alison Garfinkel, the head of Marshall Drama and another lip sync veteran, had this to say about the production.

"It's going to be amazing, I'm so excited," she said. "I really love Hamilton, but I have a soft spot for the K-POP demon hunters battle."

It seems that fun and excitement was a common theme among the students performing, but although most of the student performers that were interviewed were hopeful for the performance, some were a bit less so.

"It's definitely going to be fun! The choreography might be a little sloppy, but you know, the fun of it is the most important part," Andrew Sweet said.



*Top: Principal Lori Touloumian sings "Dance the Night Away" by Dua Lipa from the Barbie movie*
*Left: Lyric Mims (11th) is a Saja Boy singing "Sodapop" from K-Pop Demon Hunters*
*Bottom Left: August Brandow, Dylan Obsenares, Nate Nicoletti, Nathaniel Salonga, Sean Monteleone sing from "Hamilton"*
*Bottom Right: Errol Dassie, Olivia Coli, Emma Brown, Waverly Knight, Lily Schmidt, Vatche Harboyan is "Sophia the First"*

Photos by
Olivia Moran & Noemi Salazar

# *Artists to Create Installation in Response to Eaton Fire*

*Marshall begins inaugural National Art Honor Society campaign with ambitious art installation project, 16-foot dome symbolizing home*

By: Ishbel Tyler

The National Art Honor Society has established a new chapter at Thurgood Marshall Secondary School.

The organization is committed to "providing opportunities for leadership, peer recognition, college and career preparation, community engagement, and more—helping to promote the value of art education within schools and communities."

Interested students had the opportunity to sign up for the club at club rush earlier this year.

Advisor Liane Shih formulated the idea last year.

"I decided to start a chapter of NAHS because I noticed we have a lot of talented and creative students at Marshall who don't have room in their schedules to take an art class, so this [NAHS] provides them a way to showcase their talent, gain leadership experience, as well as provide opportunities to do good in our community," Shih said.

She believes that art has the power to change the world for the better and hopes that the club will allow students to express themselves.

This year, the club, along with teachers Bethel Lira, Erika Moore, and Luis Rendon and their classes, will create a 16-foot dome on campus covered in student art to represent the meaning of home.

The installation, formally titled, "The Dome: An Art Installation of Hope and Resilience," comes after the Eaton Fire's destruction of many students' homes and the Altadena community as a whole.

Club members will also participate in making gifts and care packages for Eaton Fire victims for the holiday season.

President Diana Kasabian expressed excitement for the coming year.

"We have a lot of fun events planned for this year, and I am looking forward to a lot of them. The dome is definitely going to be cool, and I can't wait to see it built," Kasabian said.


# EAGLE EYE

FALL 2025 ISSUE

MISSION STATEMENT: EAGLE EYE IS THURGOOD MARSHALL SECONDARY SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWS PUBLICATION. WE AIM TO KEEP THE STUDENT BODY INFORMED OF ALL SCHOOL AFFAIRS WITHOUT BIAS OR SUBJECTIVITY. OUR GOALS INCLUDE PROVIDING ACCURATE REPORTING OF SCHOOLWIDE ISSUES AND EVENTS, ENGAGING THE STUDENT BODY IN SCHOOLWIDE ACTIVITIES, AND HIGHLIGHTING ALL THAT THE SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER ITS STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. THE "EDITORIAL" PAGE INCLUDES OPINIONS FROM EAGLE EYE STAFF ALONG WITH A CLASS EDITORIAL THAT REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY VIEW OF THE EAGLE EYE.

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# To the Moon? Or Just a Big Balloon?

**David Chavarria**

The entirety of the American stock market is dependent on a $4.5 trillion wager.

The bet is that the AI gold rush will not end, but as macroeconomic issues, such as data delays on account of the government shutdown, rattle investors, the Magnificent Seven (the top seven U.S. tech companies) continue to run on momentum and hype.

This heavy dependence on a few companies to carry market trends has created conditions for an economic bubble to form.

To start, the economic term "bubble" refers to the rapid growth of a business sector, such as A.I., to the point where it's as if air were being blown into an already inflated bubble, disregarding any possibility of it popping because it is simply too big to pop. If the bubble happens to pop, which refers to a market crash, all involved would suffer substantial losses, even those who aren't risking any. But why do major banks and top analysts think this could happen?

Specifically, ChatGPT is a significant contributing factor. Although the integration of artificial intelligence in our lives was inevitable, the levels that the demand for it has reached in recent years are not healthy.

OpenAI released ChatGPT in November 2022 and gained 1 million users in a week and 100 million users in 2 months. Since OpenAI hasn't IPO'ed (when a company goes public on the stock market for everyone to buy), it has only been able to gain capital (money) through large private investors such as Google, Microsoft, and Nvidia.

Consequently, GPUs are why the computers in the server rooms of OpenAI can write essays and solve math problems in seconds, and they're a hot commodity. Right now, Nvidia is the dominant GPU manufacturer, and in 2022, when ChatGPT gained its first million users, Nvidia was the first to generate money. The constant growth of GPT users means that more GPUs are needed, leading to record-breaking profits.

Nvidia, having reached trillions of dollars in valuation, has made it one of the most attractive companies to invest in, resulting in its appearance in the retirement funds of millions of Americans, the market funds that banks manage, and the widespread use of its product in companies of all sizes to seem more attractive themselves and have their own stock valuations increase.

Thus, a vast number of people own Nvidia, whether they know it or not, and they interact with it every day. The danger lies in that the market's enthusiasm has shifted from solid data to speculation (emotionally clouded judgment). The widespread speculation is what has turned healthy growth into an already inflated bubble at risk of popping, which could take everything down with it, since AI is everywhere.

As a radical optimist, I hope the recent negative trends across the tech sector are merely the symptoms of a market correction (natural drop to calm the volatility), but as an investor, I plan on keeping a wary eye on earnings reports, specifically for Nvidia.

The AI gold rush is real, but at its current pace, the momentum it carries does not seem sustainable without more corrections. The moment these valuations are questioned, the emotional judgment that fueled this bubble will reverse, triggering a broad market correction that could significantly impact any managed account heavily exposed to the technology sector's current high valuations.

*Disclosure: I am currently maintaining a Hold position on AI-related equities and am not making a recommendation to buy or sell. The information provided is NOT financial advice. I am not a financial adviser, accountant, or the like. This information is purely from my own due diligence and an expression of my thoughts and my opinions based on my personal experiences.*

# Changes Make an Improved School Experience

Safety, efficiency, cleanliness, and communication are important things to many students and staff on campus. But has Marshall improved in these areas? Many might say, yes.

Dr. Marcela Valadez, an Assistant Principal at Thurgood Marshall Secondary School for her second year, reports that she has made some improvements regarding safety at Marshall, specifically student altercations.

"We're taking more of a restorative approach to how we support students, as opposed to a punitive approach. And we're seeing that, initially, at the beginning of last year, we did have a number of Ed Code violations. But the more that we stick with these practices, we are noticing fewer and fewer students that are exhibiting challenging behaviors or demonstrating Ed Code violations," Valadez said.

Now, perhaps because of those changes, people on campus are seeing a difference in safety.

"During those years it really seemed like a darker time when there were more fights on campus during lunch. There were people who were aware, or students were aware of them before they happened. I do think it's the new administrator, Dr. Valadez, who is applying whatever strategies that she knows of, to help have those students communicate better and to break those differences between those students that are having a problem, the conflict. She's somehow intervening," said Nancy Swartz, a Marshall teacher of 14 years.

The tardy rate has also declined. Efficiency became an issue in the morning when a new tardy system was introduced this year. Students lined up in the front lobby if they arrived at school late and then had to sign in to go to class.

"We started the tardy lines because we noticed that there were, like the first week of school, there were over 200 students coming late to school on a regular basis. And once we saw that number dwindle, then we were no longer doing the sign in, sign out. Now we're seeing an uptick again now that we removed that system. But we took the time to reflect because ultimately we want students in class. We don't want students taking time being in a line to sign in because they were late, because then we also got feedback that they're like, well, we're even more late," Valadez said.

Victoria Humdy ("Ms. Vicci"), a security guard at Thurgood Marshall, gives more detail on why the tardy lines were stopped.

"It wasn't temporary, it was meant to be permanent. But, after having a meeting, discussions, and whatnot, we feel that this could be done by their first period teachers," she said. "If they are marking them tardy then we don't have to double up and do what we do and actually make students more tardy because they have to sign in."

Another potential improvement is the dress code policy. Earlier this year, many students were surprised by a new enforcement of the dress code. Now, because of student feedback, Valadez has formed a dress code committee to correct the mistakes of the old dress code.

"The best thing that's going to come out of it is just a shift in our cultural perception of dress. Like one of the biggest things is, we want students not to be ashamed of their bodies. So, we want body positivity. We also want a dress code that is representative of the needs of our community, recognizing that there are different types of bodies and also like different cultural associations with different things," Valadez said.

Next are the bathrooms. Students have consistently complained about the bathrooms being filthy in recent years. A recent development in the North Quad has students and staff on campus curious as to possible bathroom renovations happening soon. Portable bathrooms are quite visibly seen in the quad, which means that the school bathrooms are being renovated.

"As far as the bathrooms are concerned, that work will start in the spring. We already have the semi-portable, port-a-potties," reports Marshall Principal Lori Touloumian.

Students and staff have voiced concerns about the bathrooms.

"I don't know in great detail but I do hear from students occasionally that bathrooms are locked and I do hear the announcements and get the emails when there are bathrooms that are closed," said Marshall teacher of ten years Joshua Tornek. "This definitely affects student performance. Not being able to access a clean bathroom regularly is a concern for students."

Some students have voiced concerns about the timing and placement of the new port-a-potties.

"Why are they having the bathrooms in the middle of lunch [area]? If you go in, everyone knows it's you. I think it's just really bad that it's in a public area," freshman Rosalina Tatlyan said.

"I like that they're remodeling the restrooms. I just wish they had done it over the summer so we don't have to use port-a-potties," sophomore Isaac Hammer said.

But Principal Touloumian says this was not something that was in the hands of Marshall administration.

"It was, I guess, a contracting issue. I'm not exactly sure of the specifics of it. We did raise our concern. I was under the impression that they were going to be done over summer. Whether there was miscommunication, it's unfortunate, because we did have to shut down programs that we had planned to have over summer," Touloumian said.

It seems that community and student feedback has had a real impact on student life at Marshall.

"I've been seeing some changes that students have been wanting. For example, equipment for the gym and stuff, or for volleyball," Tatlyan said. "I feel like we've been getting more of what we wanted."

Marshall has continued to move in the right direction in recent years. We hope the district and administration will continue to hear student concerns to tackle issues such as programs and personnel being cut and student welfare.

# Op-ed: California Opposes Texas, November Election, Prop 50

Elections on November 4th have voters reconsidering whether fairness is in this fall.

This November, a special election took place in California asking voters whether Proposition 50 should be passed. This proposal allows the state to redraw its current congressional districts in retaliation to Texas' unconventional redistricting efforts encouraged by the current administration.

California is seeking to gain Democratic seats in the House of Representatives since Texas' redistricting will result in more Republican representatives.

The practice of drawing congressional districts that give one party an advantage is known as gerrymandering. The act of gerrymandering by political parties has not been deemed unconstitutional, but this amendment puts into question whether or not it should be.

**Lilian Su**

"Other states have commissions like we do, other states do not, like Texas does not. So they feel like they're entitled to just redrawing the districts as they please because the Republicans control that state," said U.S. Government teacher at Marshall Secondary School Michael Millan who points out both the consequences and purposes.

Such a change will temporarily replace statewide bipartisan districts with legislatively created ones until the 2030 U.S. Census.

Less than a quarter of states have independent redistricting commissions, and one of them is California. As an amendment to California's constitution, the proposed text calls for the U.S. Congress to require the use of bipartisan district commissions in our constitution.

Current legal precedent insists that redistricting is only unconstitutional on the basis of racial discrimination. Federal courts in Texas are currently in the process of hearing out the lawsuits against the state's new congressional maps.

"If you only have one party in control of the government, what are your options going to be? This issue of redistricting is going to affect [the young generation] the most," said Milian, emphasizing the weight of the Marshall students' vote.

Prop 50 was officially passed on November 4. The question of whether this redistricting will be effective in stopping future attempts of redistricting from Republican lawmakers, or start a domino chain of redistricting, still remains.

The Texas redistricting revealed the Trump administration's attempt for a stronger congressional majority. It also sets a precedent that Democratic states like California are also willing to create partisan districts.

While it's a move that could make the Trump administration more weary over the next two years of office, it also opens the door to future redistricting for years to come, especially for California.

# Op-ed:Unwelcome Guests on Campus —Rats

Rats have been spotted on campus and their attendance just might be better than yours.

An ongoing rat infestation in the basement of the A building has forced the temporary closure of the College and Career Center and disrupted counseling, school administration confirmed on Aug. 18.

**Emily Jimenez**

**Andrea Rocha**

Basement staff first started noticing signs of rats last school year, but the problem was officially confirmed this fall and has only continued to spread. Some teachers outside of the basement have also reported rats showing up in their classrooms.

"I would come in every Sunday evening and find them. I don't know what's happening because no work orders are being processed when I put them in," said Liane Shih, one of the art teachers whose classroom is in the infested basement.

Eventually, Shih bought an ultrasonic pest repeller device on her own that emits high frequency sound waves designed to irritate and drive the rodents away.

"It has different noise levels and I put it on the highest one. Only my 7th grade class could hear it, which was weird, so I put it down a level and it was fine. Since I turned it on, the droppings disappeared." says.

Assistant principal Audrey Green says the issue has been ongoing for a while. Exterminators now come in every two days to treat the problems but the building's age makes it hard to completely get rid of the rats.

"It's an old school with a lot of pipes that need to be sealed so rats can't crawl through them," Green said.

School counselor Miguel Rodriguez whose office is in the basement said the situation makes him feel disgusted, but he's not embarrassed by it.

"I think the school is doing the best they can to handle it," he said. "I see some movement."

A sign on the College and Career Center door located next to counseling offices currently reads "Please keep closed. NO access at the time" with the date of the first day of school posted on it.

# *Volleyball Reaches CIF Quarterfinals*

*Lady Eagles clinch first-ever Mission Valley League title defeating rivals Gabrielino, but end magical run in quarterfinals to OC school*

By: Paolo Calchi Novati

The excruciating heat experienced on Tuesday, Oct. 28 paled in comparison to the intensity of the atmosphere inside Marshall's gym as the Marshall girls' volleyball team took on the Pacifica High School Mariners of Garden Grove.

The Lady Eagles lost in straight sets to the Orange County school in the CIF Quarterfinals (Round 3). The loss ended a spectacular season for the team, which saw them win the Mission Valley League title for the first time in Marshall volleyball history. The team finished with an overall record of 20-5, going 10-0 in league play. This was an improvement over last year's team that went 18-6 overall, and 9-3 in league.

The team reached the quarterfinals of Division 6, getting bumped up a division despite losing in the first round last year to Whittier High.

"The girls did great. I told them that they should be proud for every round that they got past," Marshall head coach Jeffrey Thai said.

In addition, the team took satisfaction in defeating their league rival, Gabrielino High School. Gabrielino had not lost a single league match, before dropping both to Marshall this year, in the past ten years.

"We beat, kind-of-our-enemies in volleyball. We beat Gab twice and we took away their league champ chance, so I think that was really important for our team," senior Naomi Taylor said. She and fellow senior Lena Lao are the team's captains.

Junior Livsey Teems, an outside hitter for the team, attributed their success this season to the connections between their players

"I think a lot of these girls have been together for a while now, so they've grown a close bond, which helped our connection and stuff, so we just got a lot stronger this year," Teems said.

Marshall had a hot start to the first set, gaining a lead of 12-7. However, the Pacifica players composed themselves after a break and won the set 25-16.

The second set was by far the closest one, with Pacifica narrowly winning 25-21, despite a few clever tips by Marshall earlier in the set. After that, the third set was also fairly close, but the Mariners pulled ahead and won 25-18.

"In this game, I think that our passing was very strong," Thai said. "Unfortunately, it didn't convert over to our offense, which is usually our strongest part, and today was a little bit weaker," he said.

The girls will return a few notable players next year, including Teems, setter Ashley Dominguez and middle blocker Noelle Taylor as the Eagles are set to join the Pacific and Rio Hondo Leagues.

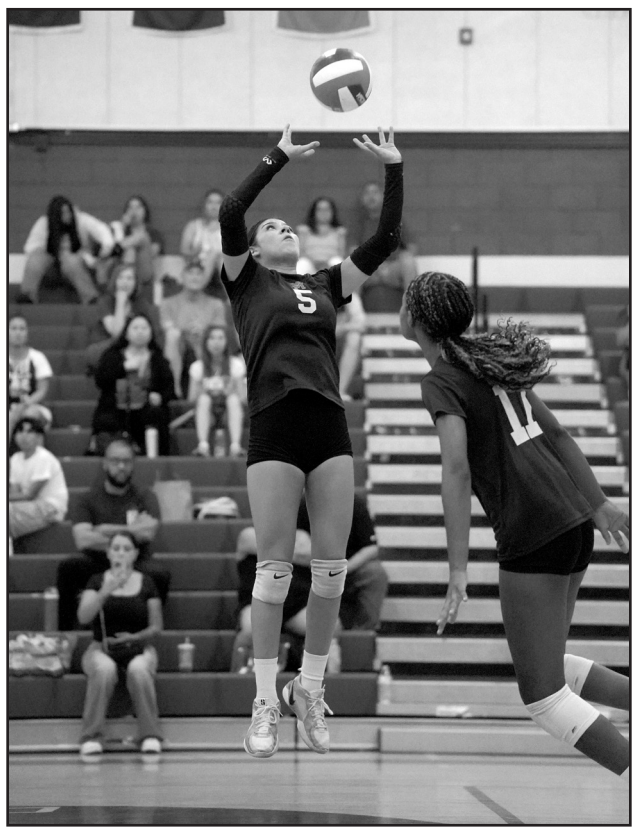

Photo by Jacob Diamante

Junior Ashley Dominguez jump sets to sophomore Noelle Taylor for a spike.

# *Girls Tennis Dominates in League, But Fall in 1st Round*

*Tough draw in first round of CIF D-5 playoffs with Cerritos results in early exit for CIF Champion Lady Eagles tennis team*

By: Ishbel Tyler
& Leo Walters

A year after becoming the first Eagles girls tennis team to win the CIF title, the team started strong by going undefeated in Mission Valley League play.

However, the season was cut short on Nov. 5 when it lost a Division V matchup to Cerritos High.

Led by CIF championship coach Eddie Williams, their teamwork, consistency, and drive have set them apart as one of the strongest programs in the region.

"We had a second consecutive undefeated Mission Valley League season, with 10 wins and 0 losses. We've been dominant in league play for two years now. The thing is, we had such an outstanding season last year going 15-0 and winning the CIF Div. 5 Championship, we set the bar at an all-time high going forward. This year we drew a very strong opponent in the first round of CIF Team Competition. We are still alive in CIF Individual Competition in which we are sending four of our players. They will be representing Marshall and the MVL beginning November 24. I am very proud of this team's accomplishments," Williams said.

At the league finals, singles players Hannah Hagiwara and Diana Kasabian, along with the #1 doubles team of Keri Santiago and Elena Edmonds, all finished at the top of their brackets and qualified for the CIF Individual Championships. The entire team also earned a spot in the CIF Team Championship, where they are projected to make another deep run.

Junior Diana Kasabian, who plays singles number two for the Eagles, shared her thoughts on the team's success and her love for the sport.

"I've been playing tennis for ten years," Kasabian said. "I like the competition and all of the friendships you make within the sport. Everyone on the Marshall team has been super kind, and I've had a really positive experience," she said.

Kasabian also plans to continue her passion for tennis after high school. "I'll probably play for college, or play with my dad, or literally anyone who wants to hit," she said with a smile.

*Top: Senior Hannah Hagiwara has been a force at singles for Marshall.*
*Below: Junior Diana Kasabian will return for her senior year season, along with standout newcomer Bailee Maxwell.*

Photos by
Taleesa Ofumbi

# *Golf Rebuilds After Eaton Fire*

*Despite losing its home course to the fire, Lady Eagles end with productive season led by freshman*

By: Isabela Koebel

They used to have a little, now they have a lot, thanks to Jenny from the Block.

After Marshall's home, the Altadena Golf Course burned to the ground in January, the future of the team was uncertain.

"Most of the teams that we were getting ready to compete with had probably a month or two of practice. Once we were able to secure a good location, which was Eaton Canyon Golf Course, we were able to get started," he said.

Even after facing challenges, the girl's golf team came back committed and competitive.

"The majority of the team is sophomores. I think them coming in with more experience and the knowledge of what's expected traveling to the golf courses made them more competitive," Harris said. "We had 6 matches, we won 2 and lost 4."

Freshman addition to the team, Jenny Chhay shone this season. She consistently scored the best on the team and was only two strokes away from competing in CIF.

"I hope to make it to finals next time," Chhay said. "I've been playing for seven years. My dad got me, my brother, and my cousin into it and I haven't stopped ever since."

Next year holds different challenges, however. Marshall will join the schools in the current Rio Hondo and Pacific Leagues to make a new super-conference. This adjustment could mean harder competition for the team.

"They made a league within a league and so we will have several teams in this league. Within the league, for example, they'll have different levels of competition. Say, for example, they'll have an A, B, and C division where one level is more advanced than some of the others," Harris said.

But next year the team will also have better equipment, thanks to the Southern California PGA. They reached out to Harris last year looking to donate golf clubs.

"It was actually a year process. They reached out last year. They said they were going to supply our program with golf clubs," Harris said.

After the reopening of the Altadena Golf Course was announced for January 2026, the only challenge Harris reported was "trying to get more players". For those interested in joining the girls' or boys' team.

# *Several Records Broken During Cross Country Season*

*Veteran leadership, outstanding coachng, and new promising runners highlight trademark year*

By: Noah Castillo

The Marshall Eagles' Cross Country team has grown and striven towards success this year, setting new records, making it perhaps the best team in Marshall history.

The season started on Aug.8 at the Cool Breeze Invitational in the Pomona Fairplex, where 13 Marshall runners set personal records (PR).

On Oct. 8, at their second Mission Valley League meet at Bonelli Park, senior Nate Nicoletti broke his personal record and set a new all-time school record of 15:56. He beat a previous time that he set.

"Breaking the school record that I set last year felt great, but in the long term process I am trying to push myself to benefit our team as best as possible. Being the lead runner is a major responsibility that I try to take into consideration each and every race to push myself beyond limits I didn't know I had. So yes, I feel outstanding to look back and think that I have our school's record, but I would be happy if Finn or Garrett had an outstanding race at league finals or CIF and crushed my record, as I am all in for our team," Nicoletti said.

On that same day, the boys varsity team tied for first place. Junior Adam Schneider, with a time of 17:19, came in before Arroyo's runners, granting the Eagles first place.

The boys varsity team placed 3rd at the Mt. Sac Invitational on Oct. 24. Nicoletti and sophomore Alek Boschetti both medaled: Nicoletti with a time of 17:00 and Boschetti with 17:07.

The Mission Valley League Finals at Bonelli Park on Nov. 5 saw the Varsity Boys place second in league, right behind Arroyo. Five out of the seven boys set new personal records, and six of them ran sub-17 minute times. Placing second allowed them to make it into CIF.

The girls' varsity team had one person qualify, junior Maria McDonald, as an individual in seventh place at League Finals. She set a new personal record of 20:21, making her ranked third in Marshall's all-time rankings for varsity girls' cross country. Additionally, five of the other girls varsity runners set PRs at league finals.

"I am so happy and grateful for my coaches and for my team because without them I really wouldn't be where I am as a runner and also as a person, and for all of their overwhelming support I feel so happy. I am so blessed to have this opportunity to be an example for the girls team, and I know that in the future, many bright things will come our way," McDonald said after qualifying for prelims.

"Maria was able to do something very special this season. Her determination and self belief have helped her turn into the runner I hoped she would be. At the beginning of the season, we hoped she would be able to reach CIF prelims. So to see her go out and achieve her goals is incredibly rewarding," coach Eric Hultquist said

Not only did Nicoletti and McDonald set records for the school, but freshman Beckett Sparks did as well. At 16:38, he holds the fastest three-mile time for a freshman in Marshall history.

"I feel great about being the number one freshman in cross country. I think that if I try my hardest and with the encouragement of my coaches I should be able to buckle down some more records," Sparks said.

"Our boys varsity team has already had a historic cross country season for Marshall. Currently we are ranked No. 10 in the Southern Section," Hultquist said.

# *Varsity Football Returns to Marshall After Five Years*

*The rebuild is complete after two years of junior varsity football only, Eagles return to varsity level football and end bounce-back year*

Photo by Noemi Salazar

Senior Marvin Gomez rushes against Rosemead. Gomez is a two-sport star, as he has boxed at city hall representing Villa Parke.

By: Brandon Acevedo

This year, the Eagles spread their wings to soar into varsity football once again.

Marshall's varsity football came back after a five-year drought, playing Hoover High School in their first game back. They finished the season with a 0-9 record and a combined score of 45 points between all games. Quarterback Christopher Romero rushed for five out of the team's seven total touchdowns.

"From my perspective, we obviously didn't come out with the win. The scoreline was not a good sight," quarterback senior Christopher Romero said about the team's first game back.

The Eagles lost 51-7 to Hoover with Romero scoring a 64-yard rushing touchdown.

Head coach Darius Streets is leading the Eagles in the reinstatement of football at Marshall. He is not only focused on winning games, however. He wants to teach his players not only how to play football but also to become grown, respectable men.

Streets has been coaching since the current players were on JV.

"Success isn't measured by wins and losses, all we can do is go up from here," he said.

Marshall persevered despite having only 26 players, meaning that most of their players have to play the whole game. Most football programs contain the numbers that allow them to give breaks to their players through substitutions.

Defensive coordinator Kevin Smith talked about how he feels about his defensive team and gave props to his players.

"The defense, I would say, they are very resilient. There has been a lot of growth between everyone and some standout players, like David Seo in the linemen core and Aaron Hurtado for the linebackers core," he said.

"We had a good season, it could've been better. There's always room for improvement," captain Aaron Hurtado said.

"At the end of the day we did what we could, with the support and foundation that we had."

Hurtado has played football for three years and is currently a junior. He has been the leading linebacker for the team and also occasionally filled in the quarterback position.

The Eagles played some remarkably difficult non-league opponents such as Dominguez High School of Compton and Pacific High School of San Bernadino.

Photo by George Bedico

Freshman Malcolm Northrop attempts a shot on goal against host Glendale.

# *Boys Water Polo Story Goes Here*

*State officials reopen schools, students return to class fully masked after more than year at home.*

By: David Seo

Are the water polo team actually having a successful season with a record of 3-12. You may think this isn't successful with 11 loses and 2 wins.

The water polo team had a very successful season with Rose Bowl Aquatics U-16 Junior Olympian Jack Slattery.
Even though people might think and say that this season was successful with only 2 wins, they have developed as they had only 2 wins last season. They had 15 games including tournaments. Starting Rancho High school with 4-20 (L) till Cerritos 18-17 (W) neck to neck match. We've won 2 matches against Covina high school by 13-8 (W) and Cerritos. For senior night we sadly lost to Muir but our team has shown passion against one of th

According to water polo team captain Jack it's very exciting to play for the school not only for the club, as a person who played only for the club since the school doesn't have a team he said his, very happy to play for the school. Adrian, who is one of the veterans who've been in the team for 2 years "it was a very wonderful year, because we got to have fun together with the seniors and new freshmans. I got to score 1 goal which was my first and last goal in a water polo game for 2 years. Even though I am leaving I will be cheering for the marshall water polo team's future." Unfortunately the coaches had no time for the interview.

We have to be proud of our players, no coach, they are just happy to play. People have been judging the team but the point is that they shouldn't be because most of the people are okay if the players are happy and gratefull.
Mrs.Touloumian has been going to almost all games because she loves the team, and she does not say a single word when the team loses.
The players are putting the work in as they wake up at 5 to go to the practice that is almost 15 minutes away from the school.

People often look at the result and put a lot of weight on the result but sometimes we have to look at the process not the result. We didn't win often, but the team never stopped fighting for the win, that's the Eagle pride that our team has shown to other schools. Seasons over but fire isn't.

# *Eagles Marching Band Story GOes Here In this spot*

*Marshall's band heads to Downey with confidence, teamwork, and passion for music*

By: Mia Ortega

The Mighty Eagles Marching Band is ready to take the field this Saturday, October 4th, at their very first competition of the season in Downey. After months of hard work, the Eagles are prepared to show off their music, their drill, and their spirit.
Behind the polished uniforms and powerful sound, the band has been practicing for hours every week, perfecting every step and note. For many students, being part of the marching band is about more than competition: it's about friendship, leadership, and sharing music with an audience.
Even though being in band takes discipline, the excitement of performance keeps spirits high.
"I am confident that we'll do good on Saturday… the responsibilities can be stressful but performing makes it worth it," said Santiago Smith-Ruiz, the assistant drum major.
Arson Lazaretto, battery (drumline) captain, added that leadership brings challenges, but also rewards: "Being section leader can be extremely stressful but the compassion and care in my section makes everything better."
Band director James Pappalardo shared that his favorite part of the job isn't just about winning awards. "My favorite part of conducting is watching the show and music go from nothing into something, as well as watching the kids grow and play music with passion."
The Mighty Eagles Marching Band is more than a performance group; it's a family built on dedication and teamwork. Saturday's event in Downey is just the start of their competition season, and with their passion and drive, the Eagles are ready to soar.

The Mighty Eagles Marching Band will compete in Downey on Saturday, October 4th. Good luck, Eagles!

Photo courtesy of Arson Lazzaretto

Mighty Eagles have been expanding their competition schedule the last few years.